

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 1, 2012

Asian Americans encourage more marrow donors. >> *pg 4*

The not-so-nice girls of the 'Nice Girls Crew'. >> *pg 9*



**PACIFIC  
CITIZEN**



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JAACL

PHOTO: SHAMA KO

STIGMA

>>  
*pg 3*

**APAs & HIV:**  
WORKING TO ERASE THE STIGMA

# NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION SET FOR JULY 5 TO 8 IN BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

The theme for this year's annual meeting is "Inform, Transform, Perform: Embracing JACL in an era of transformation."

*By National JACL Convention Planning Committee*

The annual national JACL convention has been set and this year's event will take place July 5 to 8 in Bellevue, Washington at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue.

With the theme, "Inform, Transform, Perform: Embracing JACL in an era of transformation," the event is being sponsored by the Seattle chapter with support from the Lake Washington and Puyallup Chapters.

Convention Chair Elaine Akagi and a dedicated Convention Planning Committee have been meeting for over a year to organize informative, inspirational and fun-filled activities. As home to mega-corporations such as Microsoft, Boeing, Amazon, Starbucks, Nintendo, Google, and sports venues like the Seattle Seahawks and Mariners, the greater Seattle area has become a major destination point for foreign and domestic visitors.

The Convention Center is across the street from beautiful Bellevue Square which is filled with shops, restaurants and services and the Lincoln Center which houses a bowling alley,



theater, multi-media game room, restaurants and shops.

Conventioneers will be welcomed at an Aloha Mixer featuring a Hawaiian band and dancing. More entertainment will be provided by the Portland Swing Band at the Sayonara Banquet and a theatrical offering, "Within the Silence," will be performed by "Living Voices."

With an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and colleagues and attend a broad variety of workshops, there should be something of interest for everyone. As noted above, the theme of the convention recognizes the changing face of the JACL and the challenges it faces to be relevant in the 21st century. An important contributor to a dialogue about the future of the

JACL will be the National Youth/Student Council which will also meet at the convention.

A Health and Wellness Fair will provide health-related information, conduct health screenings, promote wellness strategies and extend outreach to seniors and others who need transportation, meals, hospice care, mental health and other services. More news will be presented as commitments are finalized with health and wellness professionals.

A website should be available within the next month. Please begin making your travel plans to attend the JACL National Convention in Bellevue, Wash. from July 5 to 8. Updates and a registration form for the convention will be published in future issues of the *Pacific Citizen*.

## Letters to the Editor

### THANK YOU 442ND!

When a Pan Am colleague and I were finishing our assignment to call on a company in Genoa, Italy, my friend suggested that we drive from Genoa to Rome via Bologna. As we approached a vicinity of Bologna, we stopped at a roadside restaurant for a brief lunch. The interior garden was almost filled with local guests and we enjoyed our stopover, but we could not help but notice that all those local guests seemed to be looking over at our table and having a quiet discussion.

My friend was able to capture some of their conversation which seemed to talk about my approximate age in comparison to those Japanese American soldiers who came through and saved these villages during World War II. Those guests who were leaving the restaurant earlier came over to our table and shook our hands with a smile.

When we were ready to leave, we were greeted by their ovation just as though they were all saying "thank you" to those gallant soldiers who fought through these areas. Yes, we thank you, the 442nd!

Michael Watabe  
San Clemente, CA

### RE: 'THE TEA PARTY VS. HERD MENTALITY'

I would like to provide a respectful rejoinder to "The Tea Party vs. HERD Mentality" by columnist James Kumpel in the Nov. 18-Dec. 15, 2011, issue of the *P.C.* Even though the Tea Party may strategically foreground their supporters of color, one cannot dismiss the racialized rhetoric their representatives invoke, from the racial coding underlying condemnations of public programs and immigration, to Islamophobic tirades, to persistent calls for President Obama's birth certificate to pronouncements of the coming of White slavery. While Tea Party members may raise libertarian critiques of government power, the racial politics they deploy should concern any person committed to civil rights.

In contrast to the alleged victimization that the Tea Party faces, the author holds that the burgeoning Occupy Wall Street movement is grounded in "hostility, entitlement, redistribution and dependence." I cannot speak for OWS, but I want to emphasize that this movement is, at its base, concerned with mounting a challenge to the egregious economic inequality that exists in society wrought by the overlapping effects of neoliberalism, assaults on the public sector and government policies that have abandoned the most marginalized in society.

From where I stand, I see a great deal of hostility: the violent beatings and pepper spraying meted out to peaceful protestors at UC Berkeley and UC Davis. I see corporate interests' sense of entitlement to special treatment by the government. I see the hard labor of working people redistributed to line the pockets of CEOs.

OWS is indeed a motley and messy band of participants. But that diversity speaks volumes unto itself, that the disenfranchised middle-class professional, the college student with few prospects beyond graduation, the working poor and the veteran whose American Dream has been bankrupted have found common ground.

Jean-Paul deGuzman

UCLA Department of History & San Fernando Valley JACL

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## OUT OF THE DARKNESS: ASIAN AMERICANS CONFRONT THE STIGMA OF HIV/AIDS

In California, Los Angeles and San Francisco are among the 12 municipalities nationwide most affected by HIV/AIDS, according to the CDC's Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Planning, or ECHPP project.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

**Editor's note:** This article was produced as a project for The California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships, a program of USC's Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism. It is the first article in a three-part series examining Asian Pacific Americans and HIV/AIDS healthcare in California.

A simple, strapless wedding dress is what Sara, 28, settled on for her summer wedding where she is expecting about 200 people.

Like most brides-to-be, Sara, who is part Asian American, is busying planning the minute details of her wedding from specialty cupcakes to the reception venue.

But unlike most who are soon-to-be wed, Sara has a secret she is keeping from some friends and family members. Sara, a heterosexual woman, is HIV positive.

"It was actually the only time I've slept with somebody without a condom," said Sara, who requested to be identified only by her first name. "I think one of the things I did, is I kind of rationalized away the risks. I had one drink, but I was still pretty much sober and I was like, 'Well, we're both from Westernized countries, highly educated, in middle- to upper-socioeconomic status, so the likelihood is low.'"

The news of her HIV status was a devastating blow that left Sara in tears. Sara learned of her HIV status in 2006 after taking a sexually transmitted disease screening test.

She is one of the 4,053 Asian Pacific Americans (APA) who are living with HIV/AIDS in California.

When compared to other ethnic groups, APAs have the lowest percentage of cumulative HIV/AIDS cases, aside from American Indians and Alaskan Natives. Eighteen percent of the AIDS cumulative cases as of 2008 are Black, 54.9 percent are white and 23.8 percent are Latino, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of June 30 there were 5,771 reported HIV/AIDS cumulative cases in the APA community, according to the California Office of AIDS. APAs represent about 2.8 percent of the total cumulative cases.

But some HIV/AIDS healthcare workers say cultural values and pressures in the APA community often complicate dealing with highly stigmatized subjects like HIV/AIDS.

"The case is a little bit different when we're looking at communities of color because HIV awareness is not as high, testing rates are lower, stigma is higher and the barriers to care are higher," said Dr. Royce C. Lin, who works at the San Francisco General Hospital's HIV/AIDS division. "As a result, as a public safety net hospital we see patients who come in when something bad has happened."

Forty-year-old Henry, who agreed to speak only on the condition of partial anonymity, knows firsthand about dealing with the stigma of homosexuality and HIV.

At 23, after graduating from college, he was diagnosed with HIV. Despite practicing safe sex, Henry says he contracted the virus from his partner, who was open about his status. After contracting HIV, the Filipino American says he never thought he would live to his 25th birthday.

Henry's parents' negative reaction to his coming out as



gay made him wait about five years to reveal his HIV status to them.

"This is what they pretty much told me, 'our family's well respected here. What would people think about us if they find out that you're gay?'" Henry said. "And so if that was their reaction to me being gay, then what about with HIV? The stigma was even heavier in my mind."

When Henry finally revealed his HIV status, his parents' reaction to the news "pleasantly surprised" him.

As a gay male, Henry is part of the majority of those living with HIV/AIDS in California. About 135,985 of the HIV/AIDS cases as of June 30 were men who have sex with men and bisexual men, according to the California Office of AIDS.

HIV healthcare workers, however, say they've learned to never make assumptions about which patients have the virus.

"Somebody may not have the 'face of HIV', so-and-so is not a gay man, so-and-so is not a drug user, so-and-so is not sexually promiscuous," said Lin. "But that doesn't mean that the person is immune or protected from HIV or couldn't have HIV."

Al and Jane Nakatani still remember how their youngest son Guy, who died of AIDS, was treated when he was hospitalized almost two decades ago.

"They had a big red 'alto' [stop] sign before you walked in, you had to gown up and wear gloves, and they served him on Styrofoam dishes," Jane Nakatani said. "The nurse wouldn't even want to take his temperature and said, 'here you take it.'"

Guy's ashes were buried alongside his two brothers at Maui Memorial Park. Al and Jane Nakatani used to visit their three sons weekly at the cemetery, two of whom died from AIDS and one from a shooting. Greg was the first to pass away in 1986 at the age of 23 after he was gunned down outside a Leucadia, Calif. taco shop following an argument over damage to his truck.

Glen, born in 1961, was the most private of the Nakatani children. At 15 he ran away from their home in San Jose, Calif. After being diagnosed with HIV, Glen returned home. He died in 1990.

"I had great dreams for all three of them," said Jane Nakatani.

The Nakatanis say they will never forget the lessons they learned from the tragedy of losing all of their children. They continue to give educational and inspirational speeches nationwide through their nonprofit, Honor Thy Children.

"If we don't step in to support, help and be understanding, then the kind of outcomes that took place in our family with Glen and with Guy will continue, and of course they do continue today," said Al Nakatani about Glen and Guy, who identified as gay.

With President Barack Obama's signing of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, many healthcare workers are speculating about the changes that will occur to HIV/AIDS healthcare in California from now until 2014.

"With healthcare reform hopefully more people will get [insurance], but I'm a little worried about the expertise being lost around HIV competency and really let's face it in communities of color, HIV is still a highly stigmatized issue," said Lina Sheth, director of community development and external affairs with the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

Although, there has been progress made since the discovery of HIV in the 1980s, Sara says she thinks there's still work to be done.

"I think that there are inroads in certain communities to be made," Sara said. "I think that within the Asian and Pacific Islander community there's still a lot of stigma."

Certain family members and friends may never know of Sara's HIV status because she fears being blamed, misunderstood or labeled as sexually promiscuous.

But her HIV status has not stopped Sara from looking optimistically at the future and discussing with her fiancé, who is HIV negative, the possibility of having children.

Being diagnosed with HIV has, Sara says, made her more determined to be a success in life.

"It's not an immediate death sentence," Sara said. "And you know my initial fear was, 'I have 10 years, I'm going to live them as best as I can, and I want to make the most change I can.' Now I have a much better outlook, thinking I could live into my 70s and 80s." ■

**'I think that there are inroads in certain communities to be made. I think that within the Asian and Pacific Islander community there's still a lot of stigma.'**

# SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT BONE MARROW MATCH FOR ASIAN AMERICAN LEUKEMIA PATIENTS



With only a relatively small percentage of potential Asian American bone marrow donors registered, Asian American leukemia patients continue to struggle to find their perfect match.

*By Christine Fukushima, Correspondent*

**T**hough they have never met, Vincent Trinh has a simple answer to why he decided to dedicate his last quarter of college to organizing bone marrow drives for Janet Liang: her smile.

“No one with a beautiful smile should deserve to be in such pain. So, I made an oath to myself to use whatever available resources on campus to really get the word out about Janet,” said Trinh, a student at the University of California, Davis.

“I wanted Janet to live and continue to radiate her friends and families with her smile. It’s corny, I know, but I still feel that way. You don’t have to know someone physically to know who they are,” he added.

Struck also by all the things they had in common — both are University of California students, about the same age, from the Bay Area and active in the Asian American community — Trinh utilized his networks and journalism skills to organize UC Davis’ largest-ever bone marrow drive.

Liang, 23, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a form of blood cancer, during her senior year at UCLA in 2009. She achieved full remission in 2010 after enduring several aggressive rounds of chemotherapy, but relapsed this past December. The 23-year-old has until April to find a perfect bone marrow match.

“It feels like I don’t have much time and I realize I’m afraid of dying mostly because I’m afraid of what I’m leaving behind. And I don’t know if I’ll ever find my match,” says Liang in an emotional YouTube video blog that caught the attention of Trinh and thousands more.

According to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), every year more than 10,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with a life threatening disease, like leukemia

or lymphoma, where their best or only hope for a cure is a transplant from an unrelated donor.

Nearly 670,000 Asians and/or Asian Americans belong to NMDP’s Be The Match Registry, which consists of 9.5 million potential donors in all. Though increasing annually, that number represents only seven percent of potential adult Asian and/or Asian American donors.

Shin Ito, the director of Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) says that there are a number of challenges involved in recruiting Asian Americans to the registry.

Because the markers used in matching are inherited, patients are more likely to match someone from their own race or ethnicity. So, says Liang, the primary challenge in finding matches for Asian American patients is the “diversity of this community.”

Also, “in some Asian communities, the parents play a large role in the decisions made by their children, even adult children. Oftentimes, they must consult with their parents before they are able to consider joining the Be The Match Registry,” says Ito.

To become part of the registry, potential donors must swab the inside of their cheeks with a cotton swab and fill out paperwork. It’s a process that usually takes about five minutes, explains Jim Chin, whose twin brother Jack is currently seeking a match.

“For something that’s so lifesaving or that’s so life-changing, not just for patients but for their families ... in this case it’s [also] so convenient,” he said.

When 23-year-old Jack Chin started experiencing severe leg pains this past summer, he didn’t think much of it. Not wanting to make a bad impression at the summer internship he secured after his third year at UCLA, he never even called in sick; instead, he took some ibuprofen, found a pair of crutches and continued working. He endured a month of sleep deprivation due to the intense pain before seeing a doctor.

Like Liang, Jack’s diagnosis was acute lymphoblastic leukemia. As a healthy young adult who never smoked, had no family history of the disease, and hadn’t even been mildly ill “in years,” unsurprisingly the news caused another sleepless night.

“It really did happen to someone who least expected it ... I’m not trying to scare people but it really did happen to the kid who absolutely did not think this would happen. I didn’t even know what it was before this,” said Jack.

After the diagnosis, he was immediately rushed to the hospital. But after several months of treatment, consisting of

aggressive chemotherapy and high-dose drugs that left him feeling even worse than before, the leukemia remains. His only option of survival is a bone marrow transplant.

“When I came out of the doctor’s office [knowing] I needed to have a transplant and I had to tell people, I thought maybe 20 people would respond,” he said. “I never expected so many people who I’ve never met before to say, ‘hey, I saw your story [and] I wanted to offer my support.’”

A quick glance at the Save Jack From Leukemia Facebook page attests to the support that Jack’s gotten. From close friends to strangers to Senator Leland Yee, the publicity his high school friends have generated for him has led to more bone marrow drives and more possibilities of finding a match. And with just a couple of months to a year to do so, Jack says that he cannot fully express how much he appreciates the outpouring of support.

“I guess one thing is if I do make it out of this, I would have a lot of people to thank,” he says. ■

*To join the Be The Match Registry, register in person or online at [BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org).*



Leukemia patient Janet Liang (pictured here) at the hospital and above is hoping to find a bone marrow match.

PHOTOS: FERN LEE

# WHAT DAY OF REMEMBRANCE MEANS TO TODAY'S JA YOUTH



From family tradition to an interest in civil rights, reasons for why they plan to attend national DOR ceremonies vary. They also agree that apathy keeps many away.

*By Christine McFadden, Correspondent*

**Y**onsei Katie Hirai Niemann attended her first Day of Remembrance ceremony with her family when she was in her early teens. The annual event commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066 has become a family tradition.

"I knew what the day was for. My father had been very open in teaching me about what our family went through for us to have the opportunities we have today," said the 23-year-old.

Niemann's father is Rob Hirai, president of the Boise Valley JACL. Naturally, family history and their World War II incarceration were frequent topics of conversation. Her grandmother's family was incarcerated at Minidoka, and DOR ceremonies often turn into a family affair, with great aunts, great uncles, as well as aunts and uncles attending.

"Going to the DOR ceremonies it kind of reinforced those things that we said," said Hirai. "I think that's been an important part of that whole [DOR] ceremony to know about that history. To recognize those people in their ancestry that paved that way for them."

For Niemann, developing an interest in her Japanese American history and identity was almost inevitable. That's why attending the DOR ceremony, and commemorating the more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in various camps during WWII, is important to her.

"Attending Day of Remembrance ceremonies really humbles me," she said. "I am constantly surrounded by family who have sacrificed their freedom. The 70th anniversary tells me how much this country has grown and how we have all learned from our experiences."

Niemann currently works in an emergency department with "weird hours" but she is still going to try to sneak away to attend the Feb. 20 DOR ceremony in Boise.

But she thinks this kind of interest in attending DOR events may not be the case for many JA youth today.

"I believe that current JA youth are out of touch from the sacrifices that our ancestors made," she said.

Across the county at the University of Massachusetts, Boston a DOR event "From Confinement to College" will be held Feb. 22. Laura Ng, a second generation Chinese American graduate student, hopes the college campus location will help to get a lot of youth out for the event.

"I expect young people to come," she said. "Especially those that are taking Asian American Studies courses," said Ng, who will speak about her involvement in a JA oral histories project.

But University of Pennsylvania Ph.D. student Robert Hegwood sees a problem with students just attending DOR events out of necessity for class.

"It wasn't necessarily a spontaneous interest for the event amongst JAs," he said.

Hegwood will be speaking about the post-war resettlement period on a panel at the Oregon Nikkei Endowment's DOR ceremony Feb. 22. A Caucasian American, Hegwood grew up in Indiana and became interested in JA history after studying discrimination against JAs in the Pacific Northwest.

He is hopeful that youth will attend the DOR event but is worried about a potential low turnout.

"I think that's one of my worries about JA events, especially events focusing on internment," Hegwood said. "I think a lot of youth don't understand how it touches their lives."

Portland JACL's DOR will take place Feb. 19 and board member Connie Masuoka says they will be focusing on community engagement.

The chapter's youth group, Unite People, has been attending DOR events consistently for a few years now. This year, the presidents of the youth group are involved with the event, screening a film they made on oral histories.

"I think it varies," said Masuoka about youth attendance at DOR. Last year, she says high numbers were attributed to guest speaker George Takei.

But she also thinks many youth attend their DOR event because the ceremony is informal, usually in the form of a lecture or talk. It's "a chance to interface with the community and share what is current about the executive order," she says.

But the main purpose of the ceremony is to link the past to the present.



Katie Hirai Niemann is pictured here on her wedding day.

"To make it about why the past is important to us now," she said. "Why we need to always fight for civil rights. What happened to these people is important in your current life and in the future."

Hirai notes that with each generation, the attitudes toward the JA community's incarceration history varies. For the Issei and Nisei the pain was often kept locked up inside with very few willing to talk about their experiences. The Sansei were about assimilation. He sees a renewed interest in learning about their family history among the Yonsei.

He thinks this inquisitiveness by the younger generation is helping spur the older Nisei to talk about their WWII experiences.

"I think they recognize that it's time," said Hirai. "It's time to share those stories and to share those feelings about what happened."

How the next generation reacts to DOR events will be harder to predict, says Hirai, noting that many are often of mixed race heritage.

But for his daughter, continuing the tradition of learning about their family's JA traditions is without question.

I will "absolutely take my [future] children to a Day of Remembrance ceremony," says Niemann. "I am an advocate for human rights and feel that my children need to know about the country's history and most importantly their family's history." ■

# THE JAPANESE AMERICAN POWERLIFTING GRANDMOTHER

Stephanie Misaki Whiting, a grandmother of three, has been powerlifting for about three decades and continues to compete once a year.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

There are your typical bulky powerlifters and then there is Stephanie Misaki Whiting. Her 5-foot-one and 98-pound frame might not fit the profile of a quintessential powerlifter, but 63-year-old Misaki Whiting's powerlifting skills are not to be underestimated.

At her best Misaki Whiting squatted 210 pounds, benched 123 pounds and deadlifted 237 pounds. After about three decades of lifting weights, Misaki Whiting is accustomed to not seeing many competitors at powerlifting competitions that look like her.

"I look like a skinny aunty. I didn't always used to look like a skinny aunty. But I never looked like I lifted weights," said Misaki Whiting, a resident of Kauai, Hawaii and a member of the local Honolulu JACL chapter.

It was 1982 when Misaki Whiting, then 34, started powerlifting after taking a class at the YMCA. The Japanese American was teaching aerobics when she traded in her Jane Fonda leg warmers for powerlifting gear.

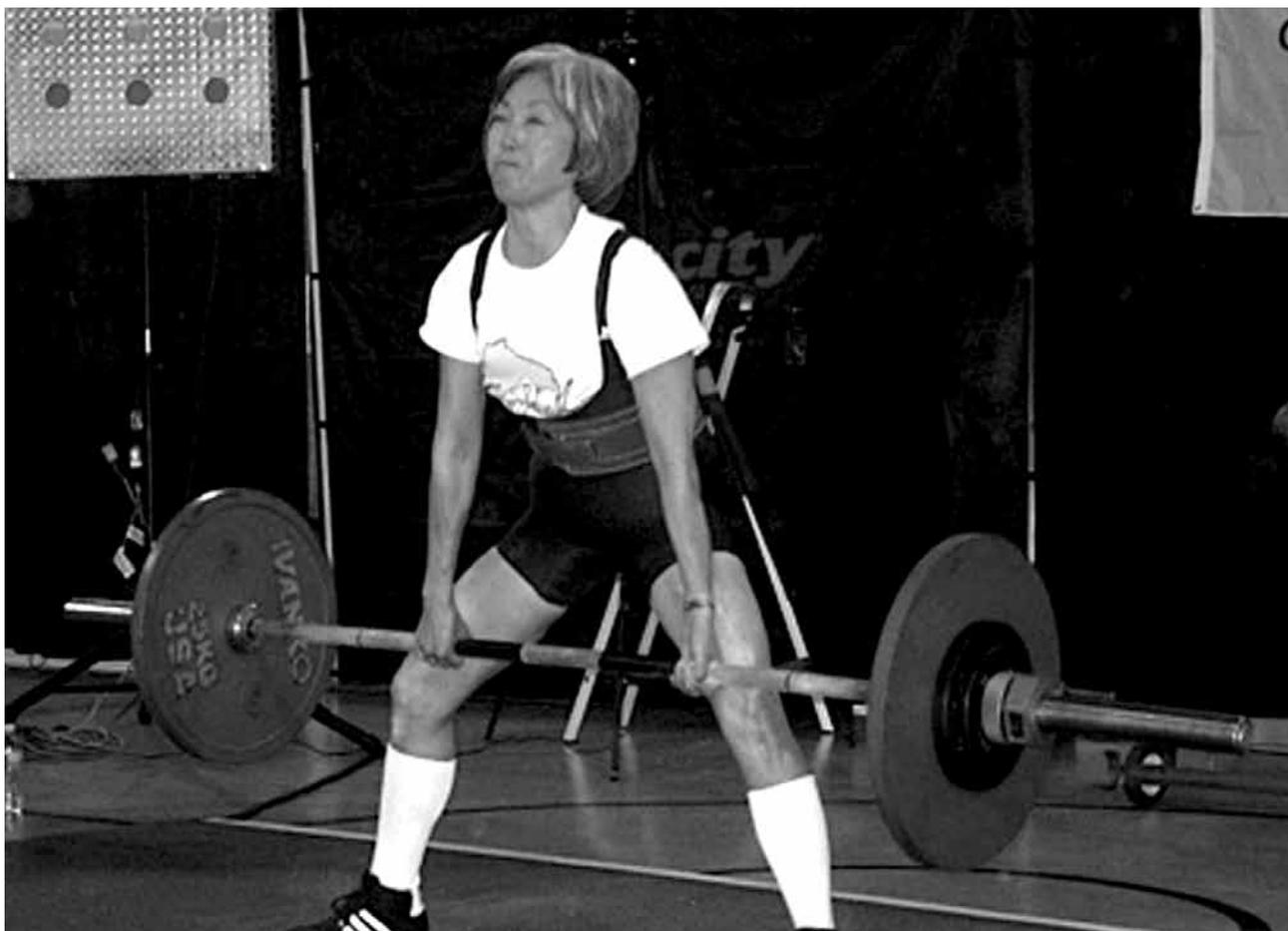
At the YMCA, Misaki Whiting became nationally certified to teach and coach powerlifting. Misaki Whiting no longer coaches since she moved in 2008 from Wisconsin to Hawaii. But she left a lasting impression on her students.

"I showed up in sweat pants and T-shirt not knowing that I needed a one piece suit to lift in or that I needed my own lifting belt. This is when I first met Stephanie. She came to my rescue," said Theresa Ryskoski, 59, a resident of Stevens Point, Wis. "She found someone there that had an extra suit that I borrowed and a belt that I used and this is how our friendship got started."

Ryskoski, who says she rarely traveled, flew to Sweden to compete in powerlifting after meeting her coach in 1982. Misaki Whiting herself has traveled to three international meets throughout her career. When Misaki Whiting first started lifting weights she was competing about five times a year.

"Then I got into my 40s and it was 'Oh, I'm not recuperating as quickly.' Then I dropped back to doing three times a year," Misaki Whiting said, a grandmother of three. "Then I got into my 50s and it was 'Oh, two is enough.' I think now that I'm in my 60s, I think I could do two, but it just calls for a lot of travel."

In addition to competing in powerlifting, Misaki Whiting began serving on the American Drug Free Powerlifting Association's National Governing Body's executive committee in 1987. She served in that capacity for about 10 years. She also established powerlifting as a sport in Wisconsin's Special Olympics.



Stephanie Misaki Whiting in 2009 at the Southern California Regional Powerlifting Competition.

"That was just the best time ever because those special athletes they did their best and they never disappointed themselves," Misaki Whiting said. "When we moved here I thought, 'Wow! I'm going to see if I can help out with Special Olympics powerlifting.' But they didn't have that on this island."

Misaki Whiting found powerlifting after moving to Wisconsin in the early 1980s. Growing up in Chicago Misaki

**'I look like a skinny aunty. I didn't always used to look like a skinny aunty. But I never looked like I lifted weights.'**

Whiting says she was not athletic. Her childhood memories are instead filled with fond recollections of socializing with other Japanese American families at JACL picnics. "That was a lot of fun because then all the Japanese American families would get together and just have fun," she said.

Her dad's side of the family settled on the West Coast after relocating from Japan. They were one of the thousands of Japanese families who were unjustly incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II. At its peak 18,700 internees were incarcerated at Tule Lake.

Arthur, her father, served in the Military Intelligence Service and met her mother, Toshiko — who was a defense lawyer — at the war crimes trials in Japan. After the war, Misaki Whiting's mother and father settled in Chicago.

Years later, Misaki Whiting moved with her family — including her two daughters — to Wisconsin after frequently moving around for her husband's Navy career. Misaki Whiting's husband Dennis later practiced pediatric dentistry in the state. But on the day of a powerlifting competition would take on a different job.

"During powerlifting meets I help Stephanie warm up for the competitive lifts, provide assistance in putting on her lifting gear and facilitate communication with the meet staff," said Dennis Whiting, her husband of 43 years. "In addition I am the all around gopher — driving, carrying luggage and getting food and drinks."

Living in Hawaii has made it difficult and costly to com-

pete in the continental United States as much as Misaki Whiting used to. But she still competes in powerlifting about once a year. In November she competed at the Southern California Regional Powerlifting meet in Santa Clarita, Calif. where she squatted 70 pounds, bench pressed 45 and deadlifted 90 pounds.

A 30-year career in powerlifting left Misaki Whiting with a room full of trophies, plaques and awards. But much like Misaki Whiting's competitive powerlifting schedule, her collection of awards has also been downsized since moving to Hawaii.

Misaki Whiting parted with a portion of her trophy collection before moving. She now keeps a handful of awards stored in a drawer at her home.

"Just to remind me that 'OK, I did get some plaques or some trophies,'" she said.

Competing today at 63 feels different than it used to, Misaki Whiting says, but she likely won't retire from the sport in the near future.

"I do know that it feels different when I'm in the gym because my body is older and things aren't as flexible or bouncy or whatever. So it used to feel better when I did the heavier weights," Misaki Whiting said laughingly. "I guess I'm going to wait and see." ■



Stephanie Misaki Whiting in 2008 with three fourths of her trophies, medals and plaques.

# ASIAN AMERICANS EXPRESS DISGUST WITH XENOPHOBIC REP. HOEKSTRA ADVERTISEMENT DURING SUPERBOWL

At Superbowl get-togethers AAs were caught off-guard with the airing of the anti-Asian commercial which reminded many of the xenophobic sentiment in Michigan during the 1980s.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

LANSING, Michigan—For many Asian Americans across the country, the response to an anti-Asian Superbowl advertisement by Michigan Republican Pete Hoekstra was an emphatic, what was he thinking?

During the recent Superbowl game viewers were treated to the sound of a gong and then a young Asian woman riding a bike in what looks like rice fields as the backdrop. In broken English, the woman starts to criticize Rep. Hoekstra's rival for a state Senate seat's economic policies.

"Thank you, Michigan Senator Debbie Spenditnow," says the actress who Hoekstra in a later interview with press describes as having parents who "are 100 percent Chinese". "Debbie spends so much American money. You borrow more and more from us. Your economy get very weak. Ours get very good. We take your jobs. Thank you, Debbie Spenditnow."

The camera then zooms in on Hoekstra who says: "I think this race is between Debbie Spenditnow and Pete Spenditnot."

Debbie here is Hoekstra's rival and incumbent Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow. The ad also goes on to refer viewers to Hoekstra's website which shows his rival's face in an Asian fan, Chinese flags and kanji characters that flow across the homepage.

Criticism from Asian Americans, Blacks and even Republicans was swift.

"It is very disturbing that Mr. Hoekstra's campaign chose to use harmful and negative stereotypes that intrinsically encourage ant-Asian sentiment," said APIAVote-Michigan, in a statement.

The group also noted that from 2000 to 2010 the Asian American community in Michigan grew at the largest rate at 34.9 percent. In 2010, Michigan's 236,490 Asian Americans made up 2.4 percent of the state's population, up 35 percent from 2000.

Groups like the JACL expressed disgust at the stereotypi-



cal portrayal of Asian Americans and the needless anti-Asian sentiment to try to win a political race.

"Anti-Asian fear mongering as a political tactic has a long and sordid history. From the hysteria surrounding the 'yellow peril' in the late 19th century to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII, depicting Asians as the enemy can result in dangerous and sometimes fatal consequences for Americans of Asian ancestry," said JACL in a statement.

"The JACL is dismayed that Hoekstra would resort to tired racist tropes and xenophobia to score political points."

The Rev. Charles Williams II of Detroit's King Solomon Baptist church, where Malcolm X spoke in the 1960s, joined several other Detroit pastors calling for Hoekstra to pull the ad.

"The Asian woman speaking in this video would be no different than him having a black person speaking in slave dialect," Williams said in a statement.

National Republican consultant Mike Murphy tweeted that it was "really, really dumb." *Foreign Policy* magazine managing editor Blake Hounshell called the ad "despicable."

At first defiant, calling the ad a "home run" in an interview with Detroit radio WJR-AM, Hoekstra has since taken the controversial ad off of his website. The anti-Asian television ad is still being aired but he has since added a less controversial campaign ad "to the rotation" according to his spokes-

man Paul Ciaramitaro.

For Asian Americans, Hoekstra's lack of understanding of how his ad fuels anti-Asian sentiment is disturbing, especially since Michigan is where Vincent Chin in 1982 was murdered by two autoworkers during the height of anti-Japanese sentiment.

"Thirty years ago, a Chinese American man named Vincent Chin was brutally murdered on the streets of Detroit by angry workers who blamed Japan for the plight of the U.S. auto industry," said Congresswoman Judy Chu, CA-32, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "Three decades later, Pete Hoekstra is stoking the flames of these same anti-Asian sentiments as he runs for the U.S. Senate in the very same state."

Some groups are now calling for an official apology from Hoekstra.

"I continue to call on him to issue a formal apology for his offensive campaign tactics," said Rep. Chu. "Until Hoekstra admits wrongdoing and takes responsibility for his actions, the decision to no longer use this material is nothing more than an act of political cover."

Groups have also created a petition (<http://bit.ly/zvbeuC>) calling for Hoekstra to apologize. ■

Associated Press contributed to this article.

## MARINE NOT GUILTY IN LANCE CPL HARRY LEE HAZING CASE

Three Marines have been charged in the alleged hazing of fellow Marine Lew who killed himself last April.

By Associated Press

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii—A military jury on Feb. 9 found a Marine sergeant not guilty of charges in the hazing of a lance corporal in his squad.

Sgt. Benjamin Johns, a squad leader, had been charged with wrongfully humiliating and demeaning Lance Cpl. Harry Lew, who killed himself on April 3. He was also charged with dereliction for failing to supervise and ensure the welfare of Marines under his care.

Prosecutors alleged Johns hazed the lance corporal by

forcing him to dig a foxhole as punishment for falling asleep on guard duty in Afghanistan. They also charged the 26-year-old didn't intervene when a corporal punished Lew by making him carry a sandbag around the base, he said.

Johns' attorney told the general court-martial jury of three officers and five enlisted Marines that the foxhole was needed to protect the base and Johns tried to stop the sandbag carrying.

"These aren't acts of hazing. They're simply not," Tim Bilecki said. "These are actions of a Marine trying to take care of his other Marines."

Johns is one of three Marines accused of hazing Lew in the hours before he fatally shot himself at Patrol Base Gowragi in Helmand province. The 21-year-old was the nephew of U.S. Rep. Judy Chu of California.

There hasn't been any evidence to prove Lew killed himself because of the abuse, so the military judge presiding

over the trial, Col. Michael Richardson, said jurors wouldn't be told about the suicide, only that he died.

The first Marine to face trial in the case, Lance Cpl. Jacob Jacoby, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and demoted to private first class after pleading guilty to assault recently.

U.S. Rep. Chu has called for congressional hearings on the military's efforts to prevent hazing.

"The not guilty verdict in Sgt. John's trial twists the knife even further into the wounds that were caused by Harry's hazing death," said Chu. "It is outrageous and a travesty of justice."

She also condemned Jacoby's sentence as "a slap in the face," noting he'll continue to serve in the Marine Corps because he wasn't discharged.

In April, the squad was assigned to a small patrol base in

>>See MARINE HAZING pg. 16



## FOR THE RECORD **JACL LOGO**

By John Tateishi

Years ago during the Redress campaign, I made it a point always to wear the JACL membership lapel pin with my suit. In the days when the organization had a larger membership and more cash in the till, we used to have a variety of lapel pins for various membership categories. I wore the regular member pin.

At a glance, you could easily mistake it for the U.S. Marine Semper Paratus logo, with a fierce-looking American eagle on top of a shield with its crest and banner. It was not uncommon for someone sitting next to me on a plane to ask if I was a Marine. Small talk stuff.

I purposely wore the pin for that reason. It looked patriotic (appropriate for a guy running the Redress campaign!) and it frequently drew people's attention. It always led to conversations about the JACL and about the internment and redress.

There's a history to the logo that always interested listeners that not even JACL members know about.

If you look at the eagle on any official U.S. document, it's always the same eagle with its wing spread and its head turned. Look at the back of a dollar bill and you'll notice that the eagle's head is turned toward the right wing. Now look at the JACL logo: the head turns to the left.

I was having lunch with Mike Masaoka one day in D.C. and asked him about it. He laughed and said no one ever notices it, and I told him that actually, an ex-Marine sitting next to me on a plane pointed out to me that the eagle's head was turned the wrong way on our pin.

Look at an early representation of the JACL logo, Mike told me during that luncheon conversation. The head faces right (I did check and he was right). "You think we Nisei would ever get something so important that wrong?" he asked amused, implying that maybe we Sansei might, but not the patriotic Nisei.

He told me that when the government began implementing its exclusion and detention policies, the JACL leadership decided that it would turn the eagle's head to the wrong direc-

tion as a symbolic protest of what the government had done to us, with the vow that the head would stay in the wrong direction until somehow this injustice was made right. So around mid-year 1942, the P.C. changed its masthead to the new JACL logo with the head facing left.

He told me Redress was the thing. If we succeeded, I could have the head turned back as it should be to honor the country once again. But he made me promise not to do it before.

Obviously, Mike didn't know me very well in those days because even as the national director over a decade later when I had the authority to do something about it, I didn't. I liked what that symbolism stands for.

Whenever I traveled in those days, that lapel pin was always a conversation piece. In the way members of Congress today wear the American flag lapel pin as if to prove their patriotism, I wore the JACL logo because of its symbolism. And because it often invited conversation.

Hosts on television programs would often point to it and ask about it. Some criticized it as a desecration of an American symbol with the head facing the wrong way; I answered that the internment was a desecration of everything the Constitution stood for. And that was more than symbolism; that was the lives of 120,000 Japanese Americans.

On planes, the poor sucker who sat next to me and thought he was going to make small talk to an ex-Marine! But seriously, however conversations started on planes, they usually turned to my lapel pin at some point, and that invariably led to the topic of redress.

I can't begin to guess the number of hours I spent on planes talking to people about the internment and redress. Sometimes as a lesson in the history of the internment, and just as often a debate about the government's policies in 1942. But I always had the advantage because I could argue facts against the myths they created in their minds.

I never expected a small lapel pin would become one of the most interesting tools in our arsenal.

To this day, the JACL's eagle's head turns to the left, as it ought to. It's important to invoke the reminders of past wrongs, especially in today's world where so many Americans think we as a nation can do no wrong. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.*

## THE RIGHT PLACE **CHINA AS THE BOGEYMAN AND OTHER MYTHS**

By James Kumpel

Americans know the value of hard work and recognize the importance of commerce as a means of improving the lot of trading partners. Our country has been blessed with natural resources, ocean borders, and risk takers who have developed world-class competitive industries. We have enjoyed the benefits of free trade as we remain net exporters of airplanes, chemicals, software and IT services, agricultural products, medical devices, pharmaceuticals and weapons systems.

It is, therefore, disturbing to see politicians race to the bottom of rhetorical excess by charging China as an unfair trading partner conniving to steal all our jobs. In the aftermath of Mao's ironically named "Great Leap Forward," the U.S. encouraged and fostered investments in China to nudge the country away from historically repressive communist policies. Indeed, the promise of free market capitalism has been a common policy thread pursued by Presidents Nixon and Carter, Reagan and Clinton, and Bush and Obama.

China avoided the chaotic and corrupt economic approach undertaken by Russia following the fall of the Iron Curtain. Instead, China aimed to replicate and improve on the successful models of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Unlike those countries, China enjoys relative resource abundance and significant cost advantages that continue to draw new investment.

As a successful exporter, China has built up its foreign currency reserves, which tends to mean that either the country can buy assets in the countries whose currency it holds or absorb the debt issuances of those same trading partners. Japan famously chose the former route in the 1980s and early 1990s only to face backlash from Americans fearful that foreign ownership of Rockefeller Center and Pebble Beach would be a national threat. Japanese investors ultimately lost their shirt on many of these status purchases, meaning that Americans benefited from others overpaying them for assets.

China has generally opted for the second route, which means that its \$1.3 trillion in holdings in U.S. debt is now viewed as a threat to our national sovereignty. Economically speaking, China has helped the U.S. government to borrow at lower rates than might otherwise be possible. Some alarmists raise the prospect of China unilaterally unloading its holdings, which could trigger a financial crisis and a devaluing of the U.S. dollar. Of course, such a move would result in substantial losses in the face value of its holdings and a diminution in demand for Chinese imports from a major trading partner.

Donald Trump and certain other commentators have accused China of manipulation to artificially keep its currency value low in an effort to undercut better domestic products. Under this theory, China is undermining viable U.S. industries, ultimately to ruination, in order to eliminate competition. This argument falls short on a few measures since U.S.

consumers enjoy a higher standard of living from greater relative purchasing power. U.S. investors can arguably buy more Chinese assets and companies through an artificially inflated U.S. dollar, and the U.S. has been out of various industries and economic sectors for nearly a generation. Markets for high value intellectual property and technologies rarely skew to low cost competitors if the quality is not up-to-snuff.

China is not responsible for our current economic mess, just as Japan was not responsible for the Carter-era inflation and industrial hollowing-out. The Bush Administration's pursuit of multiple theaters in its War on Terrorism and a Medicare prescription drug benefit pushed us deeper in the red. The Obama Administration will have added nearly \$5 trillion in federal debt by the end of its fourth year (about \$70K for the average family of four) through a variety of "stimulus" programs, payroll tax cuts, and the extension of Bush's tax cuts without even accounting for the 2014 implementation of Obamacare.

A recent political ad posted by Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-MI, featuring a Chinese woman speaking in broken English is a racially-charged way to play to Americans' fears about China. It is appallingly crude in its emotional nativism. Moreover, it is an unnecessary distraction from his actual message about irresponsible federal spending.

We are reminded of the anti-Japanese sentiment stoked by unions and politicians that culminated in the brutal 1982 murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit. While the 15 percent underemployment rate and mind-numbing federal deficits have led to economic insecurity across the country, we cannot allow demagogues and politicians to mislead us about why we face dire challenges. China did not cause our deficits. Fear and envy are not solutions. ■

*James Kumpel is a New York JACL board member and former JACL scholarship winner.*



# THE NICE GIRLS CREW<sup>o</sup> IS NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S BOOK CLUB<sup>o</sup>



**Sheetal Sheth, Michelle Krusiec and Lynn Chen** give new meaning to book clubs in the upcoming comedy series *“Nice Girls Crew.”*

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

They may not look like an ordinary book club, but that's because the “Nice Girls Crew” is not. Three Asian American actresses play “frenemies” in the new five episode comedy series about a book club where instead of books, the club's discussion steers toward topics like sex, cannibalism and drugs.

Sheetal Sheth, Michelle Krusiec and Lynn Chen are starring in the new project “Nice Girls Crew,” which was produced by the Center for Asian American Media, or CAAM. The comedy series can best be described as the Asian American female version of a Judd Apatow film, its creators say.

“I wanted to create something that wasn't censored and gave women of color the opportunity to spit, barf and swear all over the screen with the freedom of any Judd Apatow or ‘Hangover’ dude-crew,” said Christine Kwon, the “Nice Girls Crew” creator and writer.

The “Nice Girls Crew” will premiere at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, which runs from March 8-18. CAAM hosts the event every year, which is one of the largest Asian and Asian American film festivals in the country.

Kwon says the idea for “Nice Girls Crew” began after Don Young, director of programs at CAAM and the series' executive producer, encouraged her to create a female-driven comedy.

Filmmaker Tanuj Chopra, who wrote and directed “Punching at the Sun,” collaborated

with Kwon when CAAM green-lighted the project. It took about a year to develop the characters and scripts, Kwon said.

The leader of the “Nice Girls Crew” is Geraldine, played by Krusiec, who dons a bad perm for the role.

“Of course, bad perms are funny and this is after all a comedy,” said Krusiec, who requested her character's hairstyle. “Changing my look as an actress is hard for TV and film because I'm usually fitting in someone else's construct and with this I was originating my own, so really it was an opportunity to play. After reading the scripts, giving Geraldine a perm just felt right.”

Krusiec reunited with her “Saving Face” co-star Chen, a movie in which the actresses played lesbian lovers.

“Michelle and I have come a long way since our ‘Saving Face’ journey and I think we have both grown as people and actors. Being able to reunite with her in these circumstances was a gift,” said Chen. “This was my fourth project with Sheetal — that's got to be some kind of record! We always have a good time on set.”

Chen plays Sophie, the most naïve and chipper member of the “Nice Girls Crew,” who is also described as an “undercover psycho.” The fact that the actresses are friends off screen helps with the believability of their friendship on screen.

“It does help,” said Sheth. “We have chemistry, especially us three because a lot of high jinks happen, a lot of stuff happens between these girls. And the nice thing is we don't have to get to know each other.” Sheth plays Lena, a “thug-ess in heels” who is a no-nonsense type of gal.

The three characters in the “Nice Girls Crew” are childhood friends who form a book club to

meet each week but things go awry and books are left out of their conversations. They maintain the club meetings mostly because they are social outcasts and have nowhere else to go.

In their everyday life each actress shares a love of books and some have firsthand experience in book clubs, some of which have been more successful than others.

“In the past, I've been a part of two failed book clubs, and am currently invited to join a third! Chen said. “Unfortunately, I have yet to actually read the book — and it's in a week!”

“I wouldn't say a traditional book club, but I've had friends of mine that what we do is we read together in the sense that we'll each pick a book,” Sheth said.

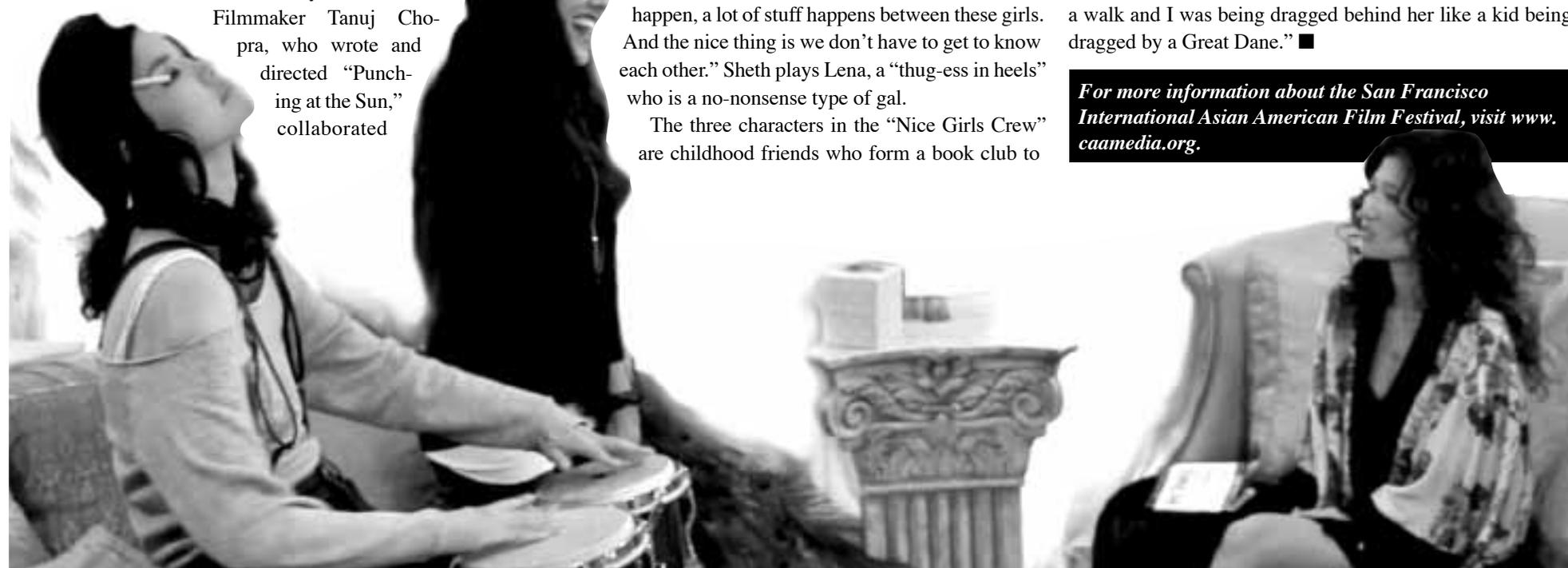
Those in the “Nice Girls Crew” who haven't been in a book club can live vicariously through their character's experiences.

“Never,” Krusiec said when asked if she's been in a book club. “But secretly, I'd love to be a part of one. I've never been invited and I don't know if I could find the time to read a book in a short amount of time with my work schedule, but there's definitely a book club person inside of me.”

While some “Nice Girls Crew” actresses catch up on their reading assignments, others are anxiously awaiting the premiere of the comedy series at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.

“Excited and trepidatious,” Krusiec said when asked how she feels about the upcoming premiere. “I have no clue what Geraldine is going to be like. I felt like she took me out for a walk and I was being dragged behind her like a kid being dragged by a Great Dane.” ■

For more information about the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, visit [www.caamedia.org](http://www.caamedia.org).



# FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULES CALIF.'S PROP. 8 IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL



Asian American community activists applaud the court's decision. The next battle for California's same-sex marriage law will likely be the U.S. Supreme Court.

By Associated Press and Pacific Citizen Staff

SAN FRANCISCO—The joy felt by actor George Takei upon learning of a federal appeals court ruling that California's same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional was unmistakable. He expressed his happiness through his blog.

"I am nearly 75 years old. I have lived through four wars, spent my childhood in two U.S. internment camps, and watched a nation go from segregation and Jim Crow to electing an African American president," said Takei, who married his longtime partner Brad Altman in 2008.

"The promise of true equality in America remains unfulfilled, but with each moment like today, I know that we can be a nation that lives up to its ideals. And I can't wait for all those wedding invitations."

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 on Feb. 7 that California's same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional. The voter-approved law is on track for a likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, the appeals court said gay marriages cannot resume in the state until the deadline passes for Proposition 8 sponsors to appeal to a larger panel of the 9th Circuit. If such an appeal is filed, gay marriages will remain on hold until it's resolved.

Still, members of the Asian American community were elated with the news.

"Proposition 8 harms loving gay and lesbian couples and their families, while helping no one," said Marshall Wong, co-chair of API Equality-LA's steering committee. "Today's decision affirms the mainstream Asian American community's support for marriage equality."

"As a mother of a lesbian daughter and someone who has been married for many years, I am excited that my daughter will finally enjoy the dignity of marrying someone that she loves," said Stella Wang. "Gay and lesbian people are part of our community; we need to embrace and support them."

California voters passed Proposition 8 with 52 percent of the vote in November 2008, five months after the state Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage by striking down a pair of laws that had limited marriage to a man and a woman. The recent ruling came more than a year after the appeals court heard arguments in the case.

Backers of Proposition 8 said they would ask the Supreme Court to overturn the 9th Circuit ruling.

"No court should presume to redefine marriage. No court should undercut the democratic process by taking the power to preserve marriage out of the hands of the people," said Brian Raum, senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal aid group based in Arizona that helped defend Proposition 8.

"We are not surprised that this Hollywood-orchestrated attack on marriage — tried in San Francisco — turned out this way. But we are confident that the expressed will of the American people in favor of marriage will be upheld at the Supreme Court," he said.

The federal appeals court decision was applauded by JACL, one of the first Asian American organizations to support same-sex marriage.

"The 9th Circuit Appeals Court decision on California's Proposition 8 reaffirms the JACL position that all persons should be afforded Constitutional equal protection," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "The JACL is pleased that the Court decision supports a long standing position that our organization has held. The Constitution dictates that there should be equity and fairness in all aspects of the law and this decision indicates that a person's status has no bearing on how they are treated by the law."

"As a community that has historically faced abrogation of our civil rights, like anti-miscegenation laws and wartime internment, we believe it is important that all people are treated fairly and have the same protections for their families," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs and communications at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law estimates that there are 66,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders who identify as gay or lesbian in California. The group also estimates that 18,000 couples tied the knot during the four-month window before Proposition 8 took effect. The California Supreme Court upheld those marriages, but ruled that voters had properly enacted the law.

With same-sex marriages unlikely to resume in California any time soon, Love Honor Cherish, a gay rights group based in Los Angeles, plans to start gathering signatures for a November ballot initiative asking voters to repeal Proposition 8. ■

## NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Harvard and Princeton Targeted in AA Discrimination Probe



The U.S. Education Department is currently looking into complaints that Harvard and Princeton discriminated against Asian Americans in their undergraduate admissions.

The department's Office for Civil Rights is investigating a complaint it received last August that Harvard rejected an Asian American candidate for its 2012 freshman class based on race or national origin. It is also looking into a similar complaint against Princeton.

The complaints are once again stirring up a debate on whether elite universities are discriminating against Asian Americans, the nation's fastest growing group.

### Some Asian Americans Fighting Recent Shark Fin Ban

SACRAMENTO—The Asian American Rights Committee is fighting in state court a recent California ban on possessing and selling shark fins as unconstitutional.

Starting July 1, 2013, owning or selling shark fins will be punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of \$1,000. The group believes the law violates the Constitution's interstate commerce clause and is an unlawful taking of private property.

The group is seeking declaratory and injunctive relief preventing California from enforcing the shark fin ban.

### Study Says Asian Americans Missing from Broadway

NEW YORK—A recent study notes that a record number of new productions are opening on Broadway yet Asian Americans are still being left out in the cold.

The study by the Asian American Performers Action Coalition shows that even though Asian Americans make up 12.9 percent of the New York City population, Asian American actors only comprise 1.6 percent of the available roles in new productions on Broadway. The figures are below what they were five years ago.

The group recently held an industry roundtable to figure out how to get casting to be more inclusive.

### Frederick County Sees Boom in Asian Immigrants

FREDERICK, Md.—Officials say Frederick County is seeing an influx of Asian immigrants with a population that has grown to more than 10,000 people.

Elizabeth Chung, executive director of the Asian American Center of Frederick, tells WTOP Radio that there are significant populations of Indian, Korean and Chinese immigrants.

Chung says the biggest draw for immigrants moving to Frederick County is cost of living. She says residents are moving to the county in a secondary migration from Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore counties.

### Developers Plan Chinatown Outside NC Capital City

MORRISVILLE, N.C.—A North Carolina developer is planning to turn a nearly deserted outlet mall across Interstate 40 from Raleigh-Durham International Airport into a center of Chinese commerce.

The *News and Observer* reports that the \$130 million project calls for a five-star hotel, a cultural center and a pre-planned Chinatown complete with sloping roofs and upturned eaves.

Panda Properties Sino CEO Mark Herman says visitors will know they're in Chinatown. He says financing is in place thanks to investors in China and North Carolina.

The Chinese American community in the Raleigh area has grown nearly 80 percent over the past decade to more than 15,000. ■

# APAS IN THE NEWS

## CEDED LANDS SETTLEMENT DISCUSSED

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### El Cerrito City Council Honors Ernest Iiyama

In a unanimous vote the El Cerrito City Council recently voted to approve a proclamation honoring the significant contributions of the late community activist **Ernest Iiyama** who was a resident of the city for more than 50 years.

Iiyama helped found the Oakland JACL in 1934. He was interned with 120,000 Japanese Americans in 1942 and later was active in the Redress Movement. He passed away last June at the age of 99.

Iiyama served on the Human Relations Commission for the Richmond Unified School District and on the Ad Hoc Committee which later became the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission. As members of the Nat'l Japanese American Historical Society he and wife Chizu would often speak to students about their WWII experience.

### Japanese American Promoted to Brigadier General



U.S. Army Colonel Paul M. Nakasone was promoted to the rank of brigadier general recently becoming only the 45th Japanese American military officer to attain flag rank. He currently serves on the Joint Staff as the deputy director for Trans-Regional Policy, Direc-

torate of Strategic Plans and Policy.

Nakasone's father Edwin was born in Wahiawa, Hawaii and served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, retiring as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. His wife and four children attended the ceremony.

Nakasone, 47, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and received his commission through the Army ROTC program in 1986. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Southern California, Defense Intelligence College, and U.S. Army War College. He served in Iraq from 2005-2006 as a strategic planner for the Multi-National Force.

### Tom Hayashi Named New OCA Director

The OCA, a national organization formed in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, has named **Tom Hayashi** as their new executive director. He has served as interim since June.

Hayashi is a former president of the OCA-Greater Los Angeles chapter and has served as a capacity building consultant for the organization. He was also instrumental in developing a mentoring program as well as the current strategic plan for OCA.

### Hawaii Law Professor Honored By National Group

HONOLULU—The Consortium of Asian Pacific American Law professors is honoring University of Hawaii law professor **Eric Yamamoto** to recognize his devotion to the struggle for justice and his mentorship of promising legal scholars.

Yamamoto served as a member of the legal team that, in 1984, successfully argued the unconstitutionality of the government's incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. The case became the cornerstone for the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which included a presidential apology, reparations and a public education fund.

### Michelle Kwan Inducted Into Figure Skating Hall of Fame

**Michelle Kwan** has been inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

Kwan won five world and nine U.S. titles, but settled for an Olympic silver and bronze medals in Nagano and Salt Lake City games.

She made one last run at gold in 2006, but a groin injury forced her to drop out of the Turin Olympics two days after the opening ceremony.

Kwan has served as a public diplomacy envoy for the U.S. government for the last five years. During that time, she graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in international studies, then received her master's degree from Tufts University in international relations last May. ■



PHOTO: SHAMA KO

During the overthrow of the Hawaiian government, Queen Liliuokalani was imprisoned in the second floor of the Iolani Palace (pictured above).

By Treena Shapiro, Associated Press

HONOLULU—Gov. Neil Abercrombie and two Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees urged lawmakers Feb. 6 to approve a \$200 million real estate deal that would settle the department's longstanding ceded lands claims with the state.

Legislative approval is needed to move forward on the tentative settlement agreement announced by the Democratic governor and OHA in November. That agreement would transfer more than 30 acres of land near the Kakaako Waterfront Park to OHA.

In return, OHA would waive all ceded lands claims from 1978 through June 2012.

"This is a good resolution to what has been an ongoing challenge over many legislatures and many years," said Abercrombie.

This is the second time since 2008 that a \$200 million land transfer has been proposed. The issue has also been brought before the state supreme court three times, with the court indicating each time the matter needed to be brought before the Legislature.

In 2008, OHA and Gov. Linda Lingle's administration presented a similar deal to the Legislature, with different parcels involved. Lawmakers did not approve the 2008 settlement, in part because of opposition from Native Hawaiian groups.

This time, OHA has been more diligent about reaching out to beneficiaries, stressing the message that this settlement applies strictly to overdue ceded land payments and that the agency is committed to performing

due diligence.

"We're working really cooperatively. We're scrutinizing every bit. Some of the trustees supported this with strong reservations, and that means we've been working harder to get to the point where we can all say this is a valuable and worthy proposition," said OHA Chairwoman Collette Machado.

At the Feb. 6 public hearing, the Hawaiian civil clubs, the Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance and other groups endorsed the proposed settlement on behalf of their members.

No cash is involved in the settlement, but Abercrombie and Machado pointed out that developing the prime Kakaako parcels could make them far more valuable than they are now.

"They have tremendous commercial value," Machado said. "We could be looking at another \$10 million associated with two of the parcels."

OHA Trustee Peter Apo asked lawmakers to embrace the settlement as an investment in the Hawaiian economy.

Apo noted that OHA's work helps the state as a whole, through job creation and programs that serve the general public.

"When Hawaiians benefit, everyone benefits and that's what this settlement ought to be about," he said.

Ceded lands, once owned by the Hawaiian monarchy, are now held in trust by the state for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and the general public.

OHA's current share of ceded lands receipts is about \$15.1 million a year. ■

## JANM ANNOUNCES REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) is unveiling its newest initiative, the Remembrance Project, to pay tribute to those who were directly affected by the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Roosevelt.

It was 70 years ago that over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent were forcibly displaced from their homes and moved into concentration camps. Through the communal story-telling and the unique first-person experiences of each individual affected by the order, the goal of the Remembrance Project is to inspire and empower others with the universal message of strength, hope and triumphs of those who prevailed.

The Remembrance Project commemorates the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

Showcased as an online display, the stories shared will connect individuals all over the country to create an online community.

Personal tributes are made with a simple donation allowing people to view, reflect and share these experiences that are not documented in everyday textbooks.

With the unveiling of The Remembrance Project, a public service announcement will premier at JANM on Feb. 18 at the official public event for the website. Celebrity supporters such as actor George Takei will be featured in the PSA.

To participate and learn more about the Remembrance Project, visit [www.remembrance-project.org](http://www.remembrance-project.org). ■

## VETERAN JACLER FRANK SAKAMOTO WINS MINORU YASUI AWARD IN DENVER

By *'My P.C.'* Contributor

Frank Sakamoto, a member of JACL since 1948 and a board member of the Mile-Hi chapter since he moved to Denver in 1995, has been named the March recipient of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award (MYCVA).

The honor is given to individuals in the Denver area every month, with a luncheon each December to pay tribute to the year's winners and the awards namesake.

Sakamoto is being cited for his long involvement with JACL and with his active participation with the Japanese American Association of Colorado, another local organization that features both Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Sakamoto served as president of both the Mile-Hi and Chicago chapters, and as Midwest District governor. He has also been the national chair of the JACL Thousand Club since 1966.

"I'm really honored by this award," he says. "Actually I don't think I measure up to the people that have been nominated before me."

Sakamoto, 87, is a Chicago native who studied optometry at the University of Illi-

nois and the Illinois College of Optometry. He is a member of the Millennium Club and a tireless promoter of JACL.

He retired after filing patents for bi-focal contact lenses and contacts that change eye color.

"I met Min Yasui in 1962," Sakamoto says, when Yasui visited Chicago representing the Mile-Hi chapter, to recruit members to join a civil rights march organized by the NAACP in Washington, D.C. "I checked his eyes. He was very nearsighted."

Sakamoto says he got Yasui a new type of high-density lens that made his glasses "not so thick," in a Christian Dior frame, and that Yasui appreciated the "movie-star look."

Min Yasui, who died in 1986, was a legendary civil rights leader and community activist.

Although he's best known by Japanese Americans as one of the four Japanese Americans who fought internment to the Supreme Court and a leader of the Redress Movement that began in the late '70s, in Denver, he had a long career as an attorney and served on the city's Commission on Community Relations from 1959-1983.

He was director of the commission from 1967 until his retirement, and is credited



PHOTO: MILE HI JACL

Minoru Yasui award winner Frank Sakamoto at a recent Lunar New Year's Banquet, which was co-sponsored by Mile-Hi JACL and OCA-Colorado.

with averting the racial riots of other major cities during the Civil Rights Movement.

The Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award was established in 1974, as a way to spotlight leaders in the Denver area, who were unheralded for the good work they did for their community.

Sakamoto isn't the first Mile-Hi board member to receive the award; current JA-

CLers Mike Shibata and Kimiko Side were 2011 recipients. ■

*The presentation of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award to Frank Sakamoto will be on March 22 at 5:45 p.m. at the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel, located at 4900 South Syracuse Street.*

## MILWAUKEE MAYOR PRESENTS CITY PROCLAMATIONS TO NISEI WWII VETS



PHOTO: DAVE SUYAMA

WWII veterans Ronald Minami, Susumu Musashi and Tamio Suyama.

The proclamations were presented at Wisconsin JACL's inaugural luncheon.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett made a special visit to the Wisconsin JACL's recent inaugural luncheon to honor local Nisei World War II veterans who recently received the Congressional Gold Medal.

The local Nisei veterans were honored for their heroics during WWII. Members of the 442nd Regiment and 100th Battalion were the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service. The Military Intelligence Service is credited with shortening the length of the War. Members of these units were awarded their Gold Medals last November at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Veterans Ronald Minami, Susumu Musashi and Tamio Suyama attended the

recent inaugural luncheon to receive their city proclamations in person. Absent were local veterans Charles Matsumoto and Henry Kanazawa.

Also in attendance was Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura, consul general of Japan at Chicago. He spoke of the resilience and strength of the Japanese people following the March earthquake and tsunami disaster. He conveyed appreciation for the prayers, concerns and fundraising of the American people and recognized the respect and strength of Japanese Americans.

Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino provided an update on JACL's civil rights activities and swore in the new chapter board members. Scott Suyama was also recognized as the Wisconsin chapter's scholarship winner. He is starting his second semester at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. ■

For more information and photos: <http://sites.google.com/site/wijacl>.

## JAVA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR H.S. GRADS NOW AVAILABLE

By *Pacific Citizen Staff*

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) is encouraging all eligible high school graduates to apply for eight \$1,500 scholarships. The applications are due May 1.

The JAVA scholarships are in honor of loved ones chosen by family members. This year's scholarships will honor: Orville Shirey, an intelligence officer and historian with the 442nd RCT; and Col Phil Sunao Ishio, USAR, and Douglas Ishio, father and son. The senior Ishio, a Military Intelligence Service veteran, was the founding president of JAVA.

A prominent benefactor of JAVA, Ki-yoko Tsuboi Taubkin, will again be remembered. Similarly honored are Grant Hirabayashi and Joseph Ichijji. For the first time this year, Mike and Etsu Masooka, as well as Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, will be recognized.

To be eligible, the entrant must be a graduating high school student and must be related to a person who served in the 100th, 442nd, the MIS, or a JA who has or is serving in the nation's armed services. Those similarly related to a member of JAVA are also eligible to apply.

The application must be accompanied by documentation showing that the entrant has been admitted to an accredited college, university, or other institution that provides post-high school education or training in 2012.

Each entrant is also asked to submit a 500 words or less essay on the subject: "What winning a JAVA scholarship award will mean to me." The deadline for the receipt of completed applications is May 1.

Christine Larson, now a student at the University of California, Davis received a JAVA scholarship in 2010.

"While writing my application essay, I found a new respect for my grandfather and how he has made such a large impact on shaping the young woman I am today," said Larson. "This scholarship was not simply another way to earn money for college, but for me to appreciate how influential my grandfather is."

Larson's grandfather is James Suzuki, post commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monterey Peninsula Nisei Memorial Post 1629.

The panel that will be reviewing the entries are: Sue Okubo, a Ph.D. economist, formerly with the Dept. of Commerce; Edgar J. Wakayama, Ph.D., assistant secretary in the Dept. of Health & Human Services, and Calvin Ninomiya, Esq, formerly chief counsel in the Dept. of the Treasury.

Complete details about the program and the terms and conditions of the contest can be found on the JAVA website: [javadc.org](http://javadc.org). The official application form can also be downloaded from the website.

For additional questions, contact Dr. Raymond Murakami, JAVA Scholarship Program Chair, 6921 Pyle Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 or [Mary2mur@aol.com](mailto:Mary2mur@aol.com). ■



# LIN SHINES AS NBA'S NEWEST STAR

With the increased popularity of Lin, New York Knicks games are now being added in Asia.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—In the course of a week, Taiwanese American Jeremy Lin has gone from basketball obscurity to being the NBA's newest playmaking sensation.

The guard is making the New York Knicks must-see TV in Asia. The NBA's Asian TV partners have added Knicks games to their broadcast schedules following the emergence of Lin.

The Knicks guard has earned more than 60,000 Twitter followers in just five days. Now, he also has his first NBA dunk.

Lin had 23 points and a career-high 10 assists in New York's 107-93 win over the Washington Wizards on Feb. 8.

Late in the third quarter with the Knicks up by four, Lin drove past three Wizards players and suddenly was alone in front of the hoop. He slammed it through with his right hand.

"Just one of those in-a-moment things," Lin said. "They messed up on their coverage, so I was able to get free."

In his previous two games, Lin had 25 points against New Jersey and 28 more against Utah in his first start — both wins. Now, the Harvard graduate had to go on the road, but instead of facing a hostile crowd, Lin found an adoring one.

The fans cheered louder for Lin than for any other player in introductions, waving Taiwanese flags and signs — including one that read: "Linning and Grinning."

By the time the game ended, the crowd was chanting for him as he walked off the floor.

"Like I said after the last game, I wouldn't have imagined this," said Lin, who was undrafted in 2010 and played his rookie season in Golden State.

"Thanks to them for coming out and they came out strong for the Knicks tonight," he added. "We had a lot of energy that came from them."

When the Knicks last played here on Jan. 6, Lin didn't play at all. With their two leading scorers missing — Carmelo Anthony gone for a week or two with a strained right groin and Amare Stoudemire mourning the loss of his brother — New York desperately needed Lin's scoring this time around.

He didn't single-handedly make up for the 40 points that Anthony and Stoudemire provide, but sure energized the decidedly pro-New York crowd.

"He just does everything easy and the rest of the guys around him are playing the way we want to play," New York coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Wizards coach Randy Wittman knew about Lin from a close relative. His son played against Lin in college. Ryan Wittman, who played for Cornell, sent his father a sarcastic message during the game.

"He told me that they did a much better job guarding him than we did tonight," Wittman said. "I already had that text message before the game was over. Makes Dad feel good."

The Knicks shot just 25 percent in the first quarter and trailed 23-17. Lin missed all three shots he attempted, and moments after the third, he was called for his second foul and sustained a gash and left the game with 4:06 to play.

Lin returned about two minutes into the second quarter and scored eight points — on three layups and a pretty 17-foot bank shot just before halftime.

Lin scored on a bank shot to start the third quarter, and after Washington scored the next 10 points for a 56-54 lead, he hit four free throws, another layup and a right-handed dunk with 2:59 left to give the Knicks a 72-66 lead. He made another layup to end the quarter with 12 points — and a 77-68 New York advantage.

The Wizards narrowed the deficit to 79-72, but Lin helped give New York a 103-85 lead with 3:22 to play. ■



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## PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2012

April 4-18	<b>Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan</b> – 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Nagoya, Takayama, Kanazawa, Hiroshima, Miyajima & Kyoto.	Peggy Mikuni
April 12-22	<b>Yamato 442<sup>nd</sup> in Europe – The Lost Battalion Tour</b> – 11 days retracing some of the steps of the legendary 442 <sup>nd</sup> regimental combat team across Europe. You'll visit Rome, Tuscany, Paris and France's Champagne region.	Philippe Theriault
May 10-15	<b>New York – That's Entertainment with AFC Vacations</b> – 6 days/5 nights visiting the highlights of New York City. Broadway theater performance included.	Steve Nakamoto
May 11-20	<b>Yamato Vienna, Istanbul, Berlin Tour</b> – 9 days visiting these 3 amazing cities. This tour is designed to make traveling to an exotic destination easy & pleasant.	Philippe Theriault
May 20-28	<b>Yamato Istanbul &amp; Ancient Treasures of Turkey</b> – 9 days visiting Istanbul, Ephesus, Troy, Kusadasi.	Philippe Theriault
May 29-June 8	<b>Yamato Best of Spain</b> – 11 days visiting Barcelona, Madrid, San Sebastian, Burgos Burgos, Bilbao, Cordoba, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, La Ronda, Granada.	Philippe Theriault
June 4-14	<b>Yamato Summer Tour to Japan</b> – 11 days/9 nights visiting Tokyo, Takayama, Hiroshima, Miyajima and Kyoto.	Peggy Mikuni
June 11-20	<b>Yamato Cinque Terre, Tuscany &amp; Florence</b> – 10 days visiting Florence, Pisa and towns & cities of the Cinque Terre.	Philippe Theriault
June 17-28	<b>Yamato Hokkaido Tour</b> – 12 days/10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya & Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
June 23-31	<b>Trains of the Colorado Rockies with Collette Vacations</b> – 9 days/8 nights visiting Denver, Boulder, Grand Junction, Silverton, Durango, Mesa Verde Nat'l Park & Colorado Springs.	Sharon Seto
June 28-July 8	<b>Yamato Highlight of Japan Tour</b> – 11 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Shizuoka, Kyoto & Hiroshima	Shigeru Shinohara
July 2-12	<b>Yamato Paris, London &amp; Rome</b> with possible Amsterdam extension – 11 days	Philippe Theriault
July 11-20	<b>Yamato Amsterdam, Bruges and Paris by High Speed Rail</b> – 10 days	Philippe Theriault
August 14-23	<b>Yamato Canadian Rockies Tour</b> – 10 days visiting Victoria, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Prince Rupert, Inside Passage, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 9-17	<b>Yamato Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast &amp; Montenegro</b> – 9 days	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 17-27	<b>Yamato Eastern Europe &amp; Octoberfest Tour</b> – 11 days visiting Munich, the Alps, Vienna, Salzburg & Prague.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 24 - Oct. 2	<b>Backroads of New England with AFC Vacations</b> – 9 days/8 nights visiting Boston, Williamstown, Lake Placid, Stowe, North Conway, Kennebunkport, Salem.	Steve Nakamoto
October	<b>Yamato Tour to Korea Sampler Tour</b> – 10 days/8 nights visiting Seoul, Jeju Island, Busan, Gyeongju, Daegu, Andong, Sorak, Suwon return to Seoul	Grace Sakamoto
October 1-10	<b>Yamato Best Fall Foliage/Eastern Canada Tour</b> – 10 days visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia & Cape Breton.	Philippe Theriault
October 3-12	<b>Cruise the Bays &amp; Railways of New England with Collette Vacations</b> 10 days/9 nights visiting Boston (Massachusetts), Portland (Maine), North Conway (New Hampshire), Mount Washington & Stratton (Vermont), Ledyard (Connecticut), Newport (Rhode Island).	Sharon Seto
October 15-29	<b>Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan</b> – 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima, Miyajima Kyoto & Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
November 7-16	<b>Relections of Italy with Collette Vacations</b> – 10 days/8 nights visiting Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Venice, Murano Island, Lugano (Switzerland), Como, Milan.	Sharon Seto
November 15-21	<b>Yamato Discover India Tour</b> – 7 days visiting New Delhi, Agra & Taj Mahal.	Philippe Theriault
November 15-23	<b>Yamato Passage to India Tour</b> – 9 days visiting New Delhi, Agra & Varanasi.	Philippe Theriault
December 1-10	<b>Yamato Christmas Markets in Europe</b> – 10 days visiting Prague, Vienna, Salzburg.	Philippe Theriault

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



# DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

## Day of Remembrance MERION, PA

**Feb. 25, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Merion Friends Meeting  
610 Montgomery Ave.

The free program features speaker Jean Hibino, executive secretary, of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc.

**Info: Contact Teresa Maebori at [teresa.maebori@verizon.net](mailto:teresa.maebori@verizon.net)**

## Boston's Day of Remembrance BOSTON, MA

**Feb. 22, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

UMass Boston, Room 35445 of the Campus Center  
100 Morrissey Blvd.

UMass Boston professor Paul Watanabe and graduate student Laura Ng will discuss their film on WWII Nisei. The co-sponsors of the event include New England JACL, among others.

**Info: Call 617/287-5650**

## JACL Central California District FRESNO, CA

**Feb. 19, reception noon, lunch and award ceremony begins at 1 p.m.**

Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on Fourth Street  
Cost: \$40/General admission

Part of the Day of Remembrance event will include the awarding of replica Congressional Gold Medals to local Japanese American World War II veterans.

**RSVP: Call Bobbi Hanada at 559/434-1662**

**Family members of veterans who have passed away please contact Dale Ikeda at [daleiked@att.net](mailto:daleiked@att.net) or 559/313-9322.**

## NorCal JACL Remembrance Ceremony SACRAMENTO, CA

**Feb. 18, 1 p.m.**

Secretary of State's Auditorium  
1500 11th Street  
Donation: \$15/Per adult; \$10/Students over 18

The Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters are hosting the premiere of "Prisoners and Patriots."

**Info: Call 916/427-2841**

## The 'Time of Remembrance Discovery Program: The Japanese American Experience' SACRAMENTO, CA until Mar. 23

California Museum for History, Women and the Arts  
10th and O Streets

This is an eight-week long multimedia educational program where students learn about the Japanese American experience during WWII.

**Info: Call Shelly Heyes or Bernadette Montez at 916/654-1729.**

## Salinas Rodeo Grounds Day of Remembrance SALINAS, CA

**Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m.**

Steinbeck Institute of Art and Culture  
940 N. Main St.

Part of the Day of Remembrance ceremony will include a presentation of "Rodeo Roundup," presented by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. The event is hosted by the following JACL chapters: Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, San Benito County, Salinas Valley and Watsonville-Santa Cruz.

**Info: Call Lily Kawafuchi, Gilroy JACL, at 408/710-5079.**

## San Jose's 32nd Annual Day of Remembrance SAN JOSE, CA

**Feb. 19, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

San Jose Buddhist Church Bet-suin

640 North 5th St.

This year's Day of Remembrance is themed "Civil Liberties Under Siege." Guest speakers will be Congressman Mike Honda, Karen Korematsu and Zahra Billoo, with the Council of American-Islamic Relations.

**Info: Call 408/505-1186, e-mail [info@sjnoc.org](mailto:info@sjnoc.org) or visit [www.sjnoc.org](http://www.sjnoc.org).**

## Berkeley Day of Remembrance BERKELEY, CA

**Feb. 21, 6 p.m.**

Multicultural and Community Center  
200 MLK Jr. Student Union (on the corner of Telegraph and Bancroft)

This Day of Remembrance ceremony is being hosted by the University of California, Berkeley's Nikkei Student Union and the Muslim Student Association.

**Info: E-mail Michael Murata at [12murat@berkeley.edu](mailto:12murat@berkeley.edu)**

## Oregon Nikkei Endowment Day of Remembrance PORTLAND, OR

**Feb. 22, 6 p.m.**

University of Oregon, White Stag Building

## Day of Remembrance 2012

### Taiko Festival SEATTLE, WA

**Feb. 19, 1 p.m.**

Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium  
1016 E. Marion St.

Cost: \$20

Seattle University and the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee are organizing this year's Minidoka Taiko Fundraiser.

**Info: Visit [www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/219585](http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/219585)**

70 NW Couch St.

A panel discussion with recent grad students on Executive Order 9066 and moderated by Peggy Nagae, the lead attorney in Yasui v. United States.

**Info: Call 503/224-1458**

## L.A. Day of Remembrance LOS ANGELES, CA

**Feb. 18, 2 p.m.**

JANM

369 E. First St.

The program will explore the theme "70 years After E.O. 9066," with speaker Robin Toma of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission. Organizers include the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, the JACL PSW district and JANM.

**Info: Call 213/625-0414**

## Idaho JACL Day of Remembrance BOISE, ID

**Feb. 20, 11 a.m.**

Governor's Office

700 W. Jefferson St. # 228

Idaho's Day of Remembrance is organized by Robert Hirai, Boise Valley JACL president.

**Info: Contact Rob Hirai at [Robert.hirai@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.hirai@gmail.com)**

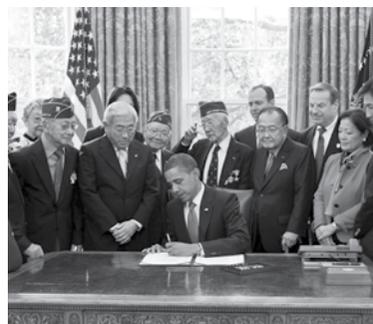


PHOTO PETE SOUZA

**Arizona Gold Medal Ceremony  
GLENDALE, AZ  
April 22, 1 p.m.  
Glendale Civic Center  
5750 West Glenn Dr.  
Cost: \$35/Per person  
Info: Contact Doris Asano  
602/997-0679 or  
[dfolder@aol.com](mailto:dfolder@aol.com).**

Congressman Trent Franks will deliver the keynote address and award the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American veterans of World War II. The event is being presented by the JACL Arizona chapter.

## >>East

### Japanese American Internment Project Exhibit NEW YORK, NY

**Thru March 12, 4 to 7 p.m.**

Interchurch Center  
475 Riverside Dr.

The exhibit called "If They Came for Me Today: The Japanese Internment Project" features 14 Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

**Info: [frankdegregorie@gmail.com](mailto:frankdegregorie@gmail.com) or [www.interchurch-center.org](http://www.interchurch-center.org)**

## >>>NCWNP

### San Jose Japantown's 35th Annual Nikkei Matsuri SAN JOSE, CA

**April 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

San Jose Japantown  
Jackson Street (between

fourth and sixth streets)  
The community is invited to celebrate Japanese American culture and heritage at this day-long festival. There will be Japanese food, performing arts, cultural exhibits and more.

**Info: [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org)**

### Nihonmachi Little Friends Annual Theater Production

**Cost: \$25/Advance tickets; \$30/At the door; \$10/ Youth  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**Feb. 26, 12 noon**

Palace of Fine Arts Theater  
3301 Lyon St.

The children with Nihonmachi Little Friends will present their annual theater production and auction "Dowa no Omatsui: A Festival of Children's Stories." June-ko Nakagawa and Benh Nakaji will serve as co-hosts. The silent auction is at 12 noon.

**Info: Call 415/922-8898**

## >>PSW

### The Konnichiwa Little Tokyo Thank You Reception LOS ANGELES, CA

**Feb. 25, 4 to 6:30 p.m.**

Fu-Ga Restaurant  
111 S. San Pedro St.

The event, which benefits Konnichiwa Little Tokyo, will feature classical Japanese singing by Yuko Gabe and a silent auction.

**RSVP: Call Isako at 571/420-0364 or e-mail [isako@konnichiwa-LT.org](mailto:isako@konnichiwa-LT.org) by Feb. 15**

### Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon RIVERSIDE, CA

**March 10, 12 noon**

**Riverside Marriott**

3400 Market St.  
Cost: \$30/General admission; \$25/Students  
The program "Mine Okubo:

Riverside's Own International Icon" will be presented by Mary H. Curtin, a teacher, author and playwright.

**Info: Contact Irene Ogata at [iogata@yahoo.com](mailto:iogata@yahoo.com) or Michiko Yoshimura at 951/784-7057**

### The 28th Annual Arizona Matsuri

**PHOENIX, AZ**

**Feb. 25-26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Heritage and Science Park  
115 N. Sixth St.

Taiko Project will perform for the first time this year.

The JACL Women's Active Group will provide the event's decorations. New Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton will open the festival.

**Info: Contact Ted Namba at [t.namba@cox.net](mailto:t.namba@cox.net) or 602/571-0247**

# In Memoriam

**Asano, Dorothy Yukiko, 76**, Ventura, CA; Jan. 26; survived by her husband of 52 years, Bill; daughters Karen (Kenny) Myers and Annette Asano.

**Hanano, Isamu, 78**, Rosemead,



CA; Jan. 20; survived by his wife, Miwako; children, Diane (Clay) Matsuda and Garry (Jan); brother, Kikuo Hanano; 5 gc.

**Itabashi, Yoko Osawa, 90**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Jan. 21; predeceased by her sister Noriko Kakiuchi and brother, Dr. Akira Osawa; survived by her husband Dr. Hideo Itabashi; her son Mark; daughter Helen; sisters, Ayako Nakamura, Kyoko Osawa, Yoshiko Osawa Nobuko Osawa and Ryuko Elizabeth Sasaki; 2 gc.

**Imamura, Jane, 91**, Berkeley,



CA; Jan. 7; an active member of Berkeley Buddhist Temple and the Buddhist Churches of America; the daughter of Rev. Issei Matsuura and Mrs. Shinobu Matsuura; she married Rev. Kanmo Imamura before relocating to Gila River; the Imamuras were involved with creating the Berkeley study class on Buddhism; predeceased by Rev. Imamura; survived by a sister, Kiyo Eshima; children, Hiro David, Rev. Ryo Imamura and his wife, Teresa and Mari Matsuoka; six nephews and six nieces; 4 gc; 1 gc.

**Kamiya, Yoshiko, 96**, Gardena, CA; Jan. 25; survived by her sons, Ronald and Edward (Janet); daughters, Helene (Sam) Shimane and Jean (Richard) Enomoto; sibling, Toshio (Doris) Inafuku; sisters-in-laws, Carol and Mieko Inafuku; 11 gc; 16 ggc.

**Katsuki, Robin Yoshio, 59**, Monterey, CA; Jan. 28; predeceased by his father, Nick; he is survived by his wife, Myra; stepdaughter, Cristalle Kishi; mother, Stella Katsuki; brothers, Ricky (Jan) Katsuki and Rusty (Lisa) Katsuki.

**Mukogawa, Mary Hisako, 94**, Tor-



rance, CA; Jan. 26; predeceased by husband Harry K.; survived by sons, Kay (Florence) and Ken; daughters, Mae (Joji) Nakakihara and Amy Hino; 9 gc; 16 ggc.

**Nishimura, Katsuyoshi, 86**, Ventura, CA; Jan. 25; he was an interpreter during World War II in the MIS; preceded in death by his first wife, Rosalie and son, Arn; survived by his wife of 14 years, Kim; daughter, Lyn; son, Ken; sister Masayo Fujikami; brother-in-law, Howard Furuya.

**Nomura, Taka, 95**, Pasadena, CA; Jan. 23; she is survived by her daughter, Chris Naito; son, Ste-

phen (Ginger) Nomura; brother-in-law, Sho (Florence); sister-in-law, Helen (Ray) Obazawa; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

**Sasaki, June Junko, 80**, Brea, CA; Jan. 24; survived by her siblings, Dorothy (Roy) Kaneshiro and Jack (Reiko); also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tsujimoto, Mitzi M., 84**, Jan. 23; survived by her daughter Trude; son Dr. Curt (Rebecca) and daughter Tammy (Todd) Sandberg; brothers Sakae Ishihara and Rev. Roy Yoneo (Dorothy) Ishihara; and sister Tish Kawanami; 1 gc.

**Wada, Jane Fusako, 87**, Orange



County, CA; Jan. 23; an active member of the Orange County Buddhist Church and was the first president of the Buddhist Women's Association; predeceased by husband, Hiromu "Bill"; survived by children Robert, Jean (Ron), Glen (Joanna), Leslie (Jeff) Inokuchi, Jo Ann (Kevin) Tanioka, Kevin (Cynthia); also survived by her brother-in-law Mits Kawaguchi, sisters-in-law Lillian Niizawa, Masako Wada, Kayo Wada, Masako (Masao) Kuwaki and Yaeko Sutow; 11 gc; 1 ggc.

**Yokomizo, Frances Kiyoko, 89**, Mission Hills, CA; Jan. 24; survived by her children, Karen and Mark; sister, Lois Sayoko; brother, Stanley Yagi; brothers-in-law, Akio "Ike" (Grace) Yokomizo and Hideo Yokomizo; sister-in-law, Fusae Kurihara. ■

TRIBUTE

## Henry K. Sakai

January 27, 2012

HENRY K. SAKAI, 86, died January 27, 2012, beloved husband of the late Mary S. Sakai, devoted father of Lisa A. Sakai, Jay G. (Julie Squire) Sakai, James Todd (Leah) Sakai, proud grandfather of Joseph, Alexandra and Emily, fond brother of Mary (late Shingo) Shima and Rosie (Bob) Fukuhara and teasing uncle to many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Chicago JAACL Mary Sakai Scholarship Fund or the American Lung Association

Visitation Friday, February 17, 2012 from 3-7 pm at Lakeview Funeral Home 1458 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago.

Interment of ashes February 18, 2012, Saturday 11:00 am graveside at Montrose Cemetery 5400 N. Pulaski, Chicago.

For info Lakeview Funeral Home 773-472-6300 or www.lakeviewfuneralhome.com

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## FORMER HEART MOUNTAIN INTERNEE OFFERS PICTURES

It took Sam Mihara 60 years to return to the desolate WWII incarceration camp. Now he wishes he had returned sooner.

By Don Amend, Powell Tribune

POWELL, Wyo.—Six decades after leaving the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp as a 12-year-old, Sam Mihara took a tour through Yellowstone, and the tour bus stopped in Cody.

Mihara had bad memories of Cody. He had gone there with his father during the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and had seen “No Japs Allowed” signs in store windows.

This time, though, he met LaDonna Zall of Powell, “the first Wyoming person I met after the war.”

Through Zall, whose life-long interest in the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp was instrumental in establishing the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center, Mihara took an interest in the camp



he had experienced as a boy and “for 60 years didn’t want anything to do with.”

That led him to begin collecting his memories of the camp.

But he didn’t begin sharing those memories until he attended last summer’s grand opening of the Center where Shirley Higuchi, president of the Heart Mountain Wyoming board of directors encouraged him to tell his story.

He began preparing a program, digging through hundreds of photographs — including more than 1,000 images archived in a Uni-

versity of California library — and checking his memories against the memories of others he had known in camp.

Recently, Mihara presented that story to a full house at the Interpretive Learning Center.

Beginning with a photo of Japantown in San Francisco by legendary photographer Dorothea Lange, Mihara traced the path of Japanese Americans from their life on the West Coast before the war through the internment camps and back to the West Coast.

Pictures of the camp’s medi-

cal services were accompanied by Mihara’s stories of his own family. His father suffered from glaucoma, which had been under control prior to the internment. In camp, though, the medication wasn’t available, so his father lost his sight.

Mihara’s grandfather died from colon cancer during the internment, and Mihara said hospital records indicated the only treatment he received was Pepto Bismol.

At the end of the presentation, Mihara showed photos he took last summer during the dedication of the Interpretive Learning Center, and he talked about the changes in people in years since the war.

“When I went to Cody, it was different from the past,” Mihara said. “We were welcomed by the people.”

He said people were helpful, citing Rowene Weems, who located a picture he had never seen, and the Albertson’s store in Cody, which provided a fried chicken lunch for the group he traveled with.

Mihara said his recent experiences in Wyoming changed his attitude toward the camp.

“People can change,” Mihara said. “I didn’t know that, and I should have come back earlier.” ■

## MARINE HAZING

>>continued from pg. 7

a remote part of Helmand where the U.S. is trying to disrupt Taliban drug and weapons trafficking.

By April 2, Lew had fallen asleep four times while either on patrol or watch duty in his 10 days at the base. His leaders referred him up the chain of command for punishment and took him off patrols so he could get more rest.

An investigation report on the incident said Johns, after discovering that Lew had dozed again, told other fellow lance corporals that “peers should correct peers.”

At about 11 p.m., he woke up another Marine who was due to relieve Lew later and had him take over the job early. Johns also ordered Lew to dig a foxhole deep enough for him to stand in, so he would stay awake while on watch.

Jacoby admitted in his court martial that he punched and kicked Lew, saying he was frustrated that the fellow Marine repeatedly fell asleep while on watch. He was also upset that Lew spoke to him disrespectfully.

The third Marine, Lance Cpl. Carlos Orozco III has been charged with assault, humiliating Lew, and cruelty and maltreatment. His court martial is pending. ■

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